



VOSH PROGRAM DIRECTIVE: 12-803

ISSUED: August 15, 1996

SUBJECT: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Shipyard Employment, Part 1915; Amendment

A. Purpose.

This directive transmits to field personnel the amended §§ 1915.32 through 1915.35, 1915.134 through 1915.135, 1915.151 through 1915.160, and 1915.5 of the above-referenced amended standard.

This amendment addresses shipyard injuries which result from the failure to use PPE or from the use of inadequate PPE and raises the minimum standard of PPE use in the industry to the level of technology currently available.

This Program Directive is an internal guideline, not a statutory or regulatory rule, and is intended to provide instructions to VOSH personnel regarding internal operation of the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Program and is solely for the benefit of the program. This document is not subject to the Virginia Register Act or the Administrative Process Act; it does not have general application nor the force of law.

B. Scope.

This directive applies to all VOSH personnel.

C. Reference.

61 FR 26321 (May 24, 1996)

D. Cancellation.

Not Applicable.

E. Action.

The Deputy Commissioner, Program Directors and Regional Directors shall assure that field personnel understand and comply with the provisions of this standard.

F. Effective Date.

September 1, 1996

G. Expiration Date.

Not Applicable.

H. Background.

On April 20, 1982, federal OSHA consolidated the ship repairing (Part 1915), shipbuilding (Part 1916), and shipbreaking (Part 1917) operations into Part 1915, Occupational Safety and Health Standards for Shipyard Employment, to eliminate duplicative provisions.

On November 29, 1988, OSHA published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for PPE for Shipyard Employment in the Federal Register for Subpart I of Part 1915. OSHA then established the Shipyard Employment Standards Advisory Committee (SESAC) to provide guidance in revising, consolidating and modernizing the varying sets of regulations to develop a single set of occupational safety and health standards applicable to all shipyard employment.

On July 6, 1994, OSHA reopened the shipyard PPE rulemaking record to provide public notice that OSHA was considering a requirement for shipyard employers to submit written certification to verify their compliance with the hazard assessment provision.

I. Summary.

Federal OSHA revised its standards for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Shipyard Employment by updating, simplifying and reorganizing into a comprehensive framework PPE regulations for shipbuilding, ship repair, and shipbreaking industries. Where appropriate, the final rule deletes existing specifications-oriented provisions that limit employer innovation and incorporates performance-oriented language.

This revised standard covers the use of PPE for the head, eyes, feet, hands and body. It also contains the respirator requirements that have been part of OSHA's shipyard standards since 1971 and adds requirements for personal fall protection systems and positioning device systems. It requires employers to conduct hazard assessments, include specific elements related to PPE in the training they provide to their workers, document training and hazard assessments, require the use of body harnesses in place of body belts after a phase-in period, and ensure the use of locking snaphooks on personal fall protection equipment.

Section 1915.5, General Provisions, Incorporation by Reference, was updated and revised by consolidating into § 1915.5 the Incorporation by Reference statements of approval which appeared throughout Part 1915. These statements indicate clearance by the Office of the Federal Register.

Theron J. Bell
Commissioner

E-Attachment: 61 FR 26321 (May 24, 1996)
http://www.osha.gov/FedReg_oseha_pdf/FED19960524.pdf

Distribution: Commissioner of Labor and Industry
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Program Directors
Regional Directors
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OSHA Regional Administrator, Region III

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) FOR SHIPYARD EMPLOYMENT, PART 1915;
AMENDMENT**

As adopted by the
Safety and Health Codes Board

Date: June 17, 1996



VIRGINIA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAM

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

Effective date: September 1, 1996

When the regulations, as set forth in the amended standard for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for

Shipyard Employment, §§ 1915.32 through 1915.35, 1915.134 through 1915.135, 1915.151 through 1915.160 and 1915.5, are applied to the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry and/or to Virginia employers, the following federal terms shall be considered to read as below:

Federal Terms

VOSH Equivalent

29 CFR

VOSH Standard

Assistant Secretary

Commissioner of Labor and Industry

Agency

Department

August 22, 1996

September 1, 1996